

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

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R 021218Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7738

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

USEC BRUSSELS

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. PSOE CONGRESS RESCHEDULED. THE PSOE'S NATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTEDLY VOTED ON OCT 29 TO HOLD PARTY'S POSTPONED CONGRESS DECEMBER 5-8. IF THE GOVT AGAIN REFUSES TO AUTHORIZE THE CONGRESS, THE COMMITTEE ANNOUNCED THAT THE CONGRESS WOULD BE HELD DURING THE SAME DATES, BUT OUTSIDE OF SPAIN (SOMETHING WHICH NEITHER THE GOVT NOR THE PSOE WANTS TO HAPPEN). AMONG OTHER DECISIONS MADE AT THE MEETING, THE COMMITTEE ALSO EXPRESSED THE PARTY'S SUPPORT FOR A "DAY OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PEACEFUL PROTEST" ON NOVEMBER 12, WHICH IS BEING CALLED

BY THE PSOE LINKED UGT TRADE UNION AND OTHER ILLEGAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, AND VOICED IT SOLIDARITY WITH STILL STRIKING MADRID BUS DRIVERS.

2. OTHER SOCIALISTS MOVE TOWARD MERGER. THE PSOE "HISTORICAL" FACTION AND ANTONIO GARCIA LOPEZ' MINI SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PSDE) ANNOUNCED IN A PRESS CONFERENCE ON OCTOBER 30 THE FORMATION OF A JOINT SIX MEMBER COORDINATING COMMITTEE. THE COMMITTEE, WHICH WILL BE HEADED BY "HISTORICAL" SECGEN MURILLO AND GARCIA LOPEZ, WILL PREPARE A JOINT ELECTORAL STRATEGY AND PLATFORM AND WILL WORK TOWARD THE CREATION OF A "SOCIALIST ALLIANCE" INVOLVING OTHER LIKE MINDED GROUPS, SUCH AS MANUEL CANTARERO'S SPANISH SOCIAL REFORM (RSE) (SEPTEL)

3. FALANGIST FREE FOR ALL. THE COMMEMORATION, ON OCTOBER 29, OF THE FORTY THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE FALANGE BY JOSE ANTONIO WAS DISRUPTED WHEN ONE OF THE SPEAKERS, A REPRESENTATIVE OF ONE OF MANY FALANGIST SPLINTER GROUPS, SCANDALIZED MOST OF THE SOME 3,000 IN ATTENDANCE AT MADRID'S PLACIO DE CONGRESSOS BY CRITICIZING THE FRANCO REGIME. BLOWS AND VERBAL ABUSE WERE EXCHANGED AS SOME LEAPT ONTO THE STAGE TO ATTACK THE SPEAKER, WHILE OTHERS LEAPT TO HIS DEFENSE. RAIMUNDO FERNANDEZ-CUESTA, PRESIDENT OF THE ONE LEGALLY RECOGNIZED FALANGIST POLITICAL PARTY ("FALANGE ESPANOLA DE LAS JONS") FINALLY RESTORED ORDER, BUT THE EPISODE SERVED ONCE AGAIN TO UNDERLINE THE PROFOUND CLEAVAGES WITHIN THE RELATIVELY SMALL FALANGIST MOVEMENT AND THE TRAGICOMIC NATURE OF THIS CONTINUING INTERNECINE DISPUTE OVER DOCTRINAL PURITY AND FRANCO. STABLER

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